

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-20. (Canceled)

21. (New) A watercraft comprising:

a rigid hull having a transom, a bottom, and a pair of sides extending forwardly from the transom to form the bow of the hull;

a stabilizing collar mounted on an outboard side of the sides of the rigid hull, the stabilizing collar having an inboard bladder defining a first volume and an outboard bladder defining a second volume, the inboard and outboard bladders being separated by a panel; and

mounting means for holding the foam stabilizing means to the sides of the hull without forming holes in the hull;

wherein the first volume is substantially filled with a foam insert and the second volume is substantially filled with air.

22. (New) The watercraft of Claim 21, wherein the stabilizing collar extends continuously from the bow to the transom.

23. (New) The watercraft of Claim 22, wherein the sides of the hull join to the bottom of the hull in a hard chine, and wherein the stabilizing collar extends from the top of the hull side most of the way to the hard chine.

24. (New) The watercraft of Claim 21, further comprising an upper attachment member fixedly attached to an upper portion of the sides of the hull, a lower attachment member fixedly attached to a lower portion of the sides of the hull, and an outer cover that wraps about the stabilizing collar and engages the upper and lower attachment members, to releasably secure the stabilizing collar to the watercraft.

25. (New) The watercraft of Claim 24, wherein at least one of the upper and lower attachment members includes an elongate lipped channel, and further, wherein the outer cover includes a rod sized to be slidably insertable into the elongate lipped channel.

26. (New) The watercraft of Claim 21, wherein the outboard bladder further comprises an air valve for inflating the outboard bladder.

27. (New) The watercraft of Claim 26, wherein the inboard bladder further comprises an elongate, releasable closure to facilitate insertion of the foam insert.

28. (New) The watercraft of Claim 27, wherein the releasable closure is a zipper.

29. (New) The watercraft of Claim 21, wherein the foam insert is formed from a closed cell foam having a density between about 1 and 3 pounds per cubic foot.

30. (New) The watercraft of Claim 21, wherein the foam insert displaces between about one-half and two-thirds of the volume of the stabilizing collar.

31. (New) The watercraft of Claim 21, wherein the foam insert is sized to provide sufficient buoyancy to ensure that the watercraft will float, even if filled with water.

32. (New) An improved boat of the type having a planing rigid hull including a transom, a bottom, and a pair of sides extending forwardly from the transom to form the bow of the hull, the improvement comprising:

a stabilizing collar mounted along an outboard surface of the sides of the hull, the stabilizing collar having an inboard bladder that is substantially filled with foam, and an outboard bladder that is inflated with air, the first and second bladders being separated by a flexible panel; and

a flexible cover that wraps about the stabilizing collar, the flexible cover releasably attachable to the sides of the hull to attach the stabilizing collar to the boat.

33. (New) The improved boat of Claim 32, wherein the stabilizing collar extends continuously from the bow to the transom.

34. (New) The improved boat of Claim 33, wherein the sides of the hull join to the bottom of the hull in a hard chine, and wherein the stabilizing collar extends from the top of the hull side most of the way to the hard chine.

35. (New) The watercraft of Claim 32, further comprising an upper attachment member fixedly attached to an upper portion of the sides of the hull, a lower attachment member fixedly attached to a lower portion of the sides of the hull, and wherein the outer cover engages the upper and lower attachment members to releasably secure the stabilizing collar to the watercraft.

36. (New) The watercraft of Claim 35, wherein at least one of the upper and lower attachment members includes an elongate lipped channel, and further, wherein the outer cover includes a rod sized to be slidably insertable into the elongate lipped channel.

37. (New) The watercraft of Claim 32, wherein the outboard bladder further comprises an air valve for inflating the outboard bladder.

38. (New) The watercraft of Claim 37, wherein the inboard bladder further comprises an elongate releasable closure to facilitate insertion of the foam.

39. (New) The watercraft of Claim 38, wherein the releasable closure is a zipper.

40. (New) The watercraft of Claim 32, wherein the foam is formed as an elongate insert from a closed cell foam having a density between about 1 and 3 pounds per cubic foot.

41. (New) The watercraft of Claim 32, wherein the foam displaces between about one-half and two-thirds of the volume of the stabilizing collar.

42. (New) The watercraft of Claim 32, wherein the quantity of foam is sufficient to provide buoyancy to ensure that the watercraft will float even if filled with water.